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**BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

Georgia – Complex Emergency

Fact Sheet #3, Fiscal Year (FY) 2008

August 16, 2008

Note: The last fact sheet was dated August 15, 2008.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- USAID/Georgia staff received reports that Russian armed forces allegedly bombed a bridge on a critical rail line between Gori town in Shida Kartli Region and the Georgian capital of Tbilisi early on August 16. The rail line is a main east-west transport route for food, petroleum, and humanitarian commodities within the country, and USAID/Georgia notes the potential for resulting fuel shortages and disruptions to planned relief shipments.
- As of August 16, international media report the continued presence and possible advancement of Russian troops in several locations within Georgia, despite a signed ceasefire agreement between the Government of Georgia (GoG) and the Government of the Russian Federation (GoRF). Unconfirmed reports cite Russian forces in Khashuri and Borjomi towns in central Georgia, near Abasha and Kutaisi towns in western Georgia, and Igoeti town approximately 45 km outside of Tbilisi. Multiple reports note the continued presence of Russian forces in and around Gori, Zugdidi, and Senaki towns as well as Poti port in western Georgia. The uncertain security environment continues to hamper humanitarian access, negatively impacting emergency relief efforts.
- On August 16, two U.S. European Command (EUCOM) C-130 flights arrived in Tbilisi, delivering USG relief supplies and logistics equipment from a U.S. Department of State, Office of the Coordinator of U.S. Assistance to Europe and Eurasia (State/EUR/ACE) warehouse in Germany. Following requests from the GoG for tents, blankets, and additional commodities, the USG is currently planning to dispatch two C-130 flights of emergency relief supplies per day from August 15 through 21.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
Newly Displaced Persons in Georgia	72,000	UNHCR ¹ - August 16, 2008
Newly Displaced Persons in Russia	30,000	OCHA ² - August 14, 2008

FY 2008 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Georgia.....	\$1,376,191
State/EUR/ACE Assistance to Georgia.....	\$2,420,000
Total USAID and State Humanitarian Assistance to Georgia.....	\$3,796,191

CURRENT SITUATION

Security and Access

- Unconfirmed reports note significant looting, harassment of women and children, and human rights violations in Gori. On August 15, UNHCR called for the protection of civilians and internally displaced persons (IDPs) and greater humanitarian access to affected areas in Georgia. The High Commissioner is scheduled to travel to Georgia and Russia in the coming days to assess current relief efforts and urge improved access for relief operations targeting populations requiring immediate assistance in South Ossetia and areas of western Georgia.
- The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) states that the organization remains prepared to conduct humanitarian assessments and expand relief operations into South Ossetia pending security guarantees from all armed parties to the conflict.
- On August 16, the USAID/OFDA Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) assessed logistics operations for humanitarian flights arriving in Tbilisi airport. The team reported that the airport logistics hub is operational and offloading and consignment are proceeding smoothly.
- Following media reports that Russian armed forces had damaged infrastructure at Poti port on August 15, U.N. World Food Program (WFP) staff conducted a site visit at the port and reported that commercial activity had resumed despite damage to some military facilities. WFP also notes that trucks weighing up to five to seven tons may use the southern route between Tbilisi and Batumi and Poti ports.

¹ Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

² U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

Displacement

- As of August 16, UNHCR estimates that 72,000 people are internally displaced within Georgia as a result of the ongoing conflict. Security concerns continue to prevent comprehensive assessments identifying the specific number and locations of displaced persons. However, the USAID/OFDA DART notes that reporting on IDP populations is improving.
- Current projections indicate the IDP population may reach 100,000 individuals, with approximately 80,000 IDPs in and around Tbilisi, and 20,000 IDPs in western Georgia, primarily concentrated near Poti, Senaki, and Kutaisi areas.
- On August 16, ACT International reported that approximately 13,135 IDPs had gathered in 17 temporary accommodation centers in and around Kutaisi in Imereti Region, western Georgia, as of August 15.

Emergency Relief Supplies

- To date, ICRC has airlifted 100 tons of emergency relief supplies such as medicine, blankets, water containers, and hygiene kits to Georgia, and an additional shipment of 45 tons of humanitarian commodities was due to arrive on August 15. ICRC plans to transport 320 tons of relief commodities to Georgia in the coming days.
- As of August 15, ICRC had distributed blankets and hygiene kits to approximately 1,000 people and improved access to water for approximately 900 displaced persons in a temporary shelter in Tbilisi. ICRC engineers are working to further improve access to safe drinking water and hygiene and sanitation facilities for IDPs staying in public buildings in the capital.

Emergency Food Assistance

- The USAID/OFDA DART notes that the reported destruction of the railway bridge between Gori and Tbilisi and low in-country stocks of prepared emergency food items may impact future scheduled distributions of food relief to IDPs in Georgia. The damaged railway bridge is affecting the transport of 7,000 metric tons (MT) of wheat and other emergency food commodities on the rail line, as of August 16.
- On August 16, WFP reports having 300,000 high-energy biscuits in-country, which are sufficient for existing emergency food requirements through August 19. In addition, 52 containers of food commodities, including flour, cooking oil, and beans are available for targeted beneficiaries in Tbilisi. However, these staple food items require preparation, and many IDP sites lack cooking facilities. As a result, WFP notes the need for additional prepared food commodities beginning August 20.

USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- On August 9, U.S. Ambassador John F. Tefft declared a disaster due to the effects of armed conflict in Georgia. In response, USAID/OFDA provided an initial \$250,000 through the U.S. Embassy in Tbilisi for the provision of emergency relief supplies to benefit up to 10,000 people. The U.S. Embassy in Tbilisi released Department of State pre-positioned disaster packages including medical supplies, tents, blankets, bedding, hygiene items, and clothing valued at \$1.2 million.
- On August 12, EUCOM flights began transporting State/EUR/ACE-provided relief and medical supplies to Tbilisi. As of August 16, six flights carrying additional relief, shelter, and medical commodities, including 104,000 doses of antibiotics requested by the GoG Ministry of Health, have arrived in Tbilisi. These commodities are valued at more than \$1.2 million.
- On August 13, the enhanced USAID/OFDA regional team for Europe, the Middle East, and Central Asia transitioned to a Response Management Team based in Washington D.C. to coordinate USG humanitarian response efforts, identify priority needs, and program additional emergency assistance.
- On August 14, USAID/OFDA in collaboration with USAID/FFP provided \$1 million to WFP for the procurement of 653.5 MT of emergency food commodities for populations affected by the ongoing emergency.
- On August 15, the USAID/OFDA DART arrived in Tbilisi to conduct humanitarian needs assessments, coordinate with the GoG and relief agencies, and inform further USAID assistance priorities. USAID/OFDA continues to work closely with the U.S. Department of State, Department of Defense, and humanitarian agencies on the ground to coordinate relief activities.

USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO GEORGIA

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			

USAID/Georgia	Emergency Relief Supplies	Tbilisi, Marneuli, Dmanisi, Bolnisi, Khashuri, Borjomi, Akhaltzikhe	\$250,000
WFP	653.40 metric tons (MT) of Emergency Food Commodities	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
	Administration and DART Support		\$126,191
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$1,376,191
STATE/EUR/ACE ASSISTANCE²			
Multiple	Emergency Relief and Medical Supplies	Tbilisi and Affected Areas	\$1,220,000
Multiple	Emergency Relief Supplies	Tbilisi and Affected Areas	\$1,200,000
TOTAL STATE/EUR/ACE			\$2,420,000
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO GEORGIA IN FY 2008			\$3,796,191

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of August 16, 2008.

² State/EUR/ACE has facilitated the provision of emergency relief supplies to non-governmental organizations for distribution in cooperation with the GoG Ministry of Refugees and Accommodation. The funding amounts represent the approximate value of relief commodities and do not include the cost of U.S. European Command military flights that have transported the supplies from warehouses in Germany to Georgia.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. Information on organizations responding to the humanitarian situation in Georgia may be available at www.reliefweb.int.
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, warehouse space, etc); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - USAID: www.usaid.gov – Keyword: Donations
 - The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or (703) 276-1914
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int